

**MINUTES**  
**YORK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**  
Work Session  
**Charting the Course to 2025**  
**The County of York Comprehensive Plan**  
York Hall East Room, 301 Main Street  
August 3, 2005

**MEMBERS**  
Christopher A. Abel  
Nicholas F. Barba  
Anne C. H. Conner  
John R. Davis  
Alexander T. Hamilton  
Alfred E. Ptasznik, Jr.  
John W. Staton

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Alfred Ptasznik called the work session to order at 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called and all members were present except Mr. Staton. Staff members present were J. Mark Carter, Timothy C. Cross, Amy Parker, Earl Anderson, and James E. Barnett, Jr., County Attorney. Also in attendance were Comprehensive Plan Review Steering Committee members Carole Ferro and Carl Loveland.

**INTRODUCTION**

Chair Alfred Ptasznik, Jr., introduced Nick Barba, Chairman of the Comprehensive Plan Review Steering Committee.

**REMARKS**

Mr. Nick Barba thanked those in attendance and introduced Ms. Ferro and Mr. Loveland.

Mr. Barba acknowledged this meeting as the culmination of a review process that commenced in July 2004 and included a series of 15 neighborhood meetings, a Communications and Outreach Group, and 24 Steering Committee meetings. He expressed appreciation for the ideas, determination, consideration, hard work, and commitment of the citizens and committee members over the past year. He then turned the meeting over to Timothy C. Cross, AICP, Principal Planner, for a presentation.

## **PRESENTATION**

Mr. Cross, using a PowerPoint presentation, highlighted the focus issues – citizens' concerns and desires identified by neighborhood open houses where Planning staff, members of the Steering Committee including several Planning Commission members and York County Supervisors, heard citizens' concerns; a telephone survey conducted by a professional survey firm hired by the County; and the Communications and Outreach Group, which solicited input from homeowner groups and neighbors. All of the data were considered and addressed by staff and the Comprehensive Plan Review Steering Committee during a series of meetings.

A copy of Mr. Cross's formal presentation is attached to these Minutes.

## **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Abel inquired if any single neighborhood was particularly well represented at the open houses, and Mr. Cross reported that the Skimino area had very good representation at one of the neighborhood open houses -- representing, in fact, nearly one-third of the total citizen turnout for all neighborhood meetings. The lowest attendance was at Tabb High School, he reported, where three people attended one meeting.

There was some discussion about the strong public support for more green space, walkways, and bikeways. Mr. Cross displayed a slide showing a proposed greenways plan depicting existing and possible future interconnections among bikeways, walkways, parks, schools, etc.

Mr. Cross added that the draft plan recommends the County work with the Virginia Department of Transportation to preserve the landscaped median on Interstate 64 when it is widened.

Mr. Abel suggested that the traffic problems identified by citizens relate more to getting to and from the County than originating within York County.

Ms. Conner believed mixed-use development could help control traffic and commented on the limited positive response from the citizens to mixed-use development. Mr. Ptasznik thought it would be important to set aside some land for that purpose, and the only way to accomplish a mixed-use development would be to have the Board approve it as a Planned Development.

Mr. Ptasznik addressed blighted properties, noting the Steering Committee, while acknowledging the County cannot purchase such properties at the present time, had discussed the County budgeting funds to be in a position to purchase selected blighted properties in the future.

Concerning affordable housing, Mr. Cross stated the Code of Virginia requires that affordable housing be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan, as it was, but the citizens did not consider it a high priority for the County. The Steering Committee had discussed affordable housing at length and recommended that the County develop an affordable dwelling unit program as permitted by state code.

Mr. Abel brought up the Peninsula Airport Commission's Airport Master Plan proposed relocation of a portion of Oriana Road and wondered if it could be accomplished without causing the road to flood, given its location within a watershed.

Mr. Abel noted that the estimated time frame for expansion of the Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport coincides with the proposed time at which a regional "super port" in Isle of Wight County would be needed, and he wondered if both would make sense. Mr. Cross did not believe the Federal Aviation Administration or the Virginia Department of Aviation would support both a super port and full expansion of the regional airport.

Ms. Conner suggested the County consider providing opportunities – particularly for children – to learn to swim, recognizing the County's proximity to numerous waterways and historical relationship to the water. She realized the difficulty of enrolling children in many of the public programs because of their popularity, and the scarcity of public pools. She wondered, for instance, if the YMCA might agree to operate swimming pools and water-safety programs in other pools or facilities provided by the County. She asked how proposals are initiated for the County's long-range plan.

Mr. Anderson agreed there was no specific discussion among the Committee about swimming pools and he was not aware if the Parks and Recreation Division had looked into long-range planning for more swimming pools and programs. He offered to find out what the Parks and Recreation Division has done and its future goals in that regard.

Mr. Ptasznik agreed with Mr. Anderson, but pointed out that many of the neighborhood associations have their own pools and it is their prerogative to offer swimming lessons to their members. He added that private homeowner associations operate as non-profit entities, which precludes renting their pools out to other organizations.

Mr. Anderson noted there are even more communities to be built in the County whose plans include swimming pools.

Mr. Davis commented that private-sector plans to build two new aquatic centers in the County had been dropped because of a lack of market demand.

Chair Ptasznik suggested August 24<sup>th</sup> for the Commission to conduct a public hearing on the draft Plan, and delay voting on the proposed plan until the September 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting because issues may surface at the public hearing that could prompt another work session before voting.

The members agreed by voice vote to conduct the public hearing, without a recommendation, on August 24, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room, York Hall.

Mr. Ptasznik commended the staff, Mr. Barba, and the Steering Committee for their commitment. He said they did an excellent job.

Mr. Ptasznik, a member of the Board of Directors for the Citizens Planning Education Association of Virginia (CPEAV), recommended all Commissioners who have not taken its Certified Planning

Commissioner program to do so. Also, the organization is planning to recognize the achievements of particular counties, cities, organizations, etc., and he believes the County's Comprehensive Plan review would qualify. Mr. Ptasznik offered to make that recommendation after the Board of Supervisors adopts the Plan.

Mr. Abel agreed that the draft Plan was very well done and "set the bar high."

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other items of discussion, Chair Ptasznik adjourned the work session at 8:47 p.m.

**SUBMITTED:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis P. Liscum, Secretary

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Alfred E. Ptasznik, Jr., Chair

**DATE:** September 14, 2005